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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005

STYLE & TRENDS IN LIVING | PAGE C12

FOUR COSTUMES YOU CAN MAKE IN A SNAP

Planning not to plan? We've got ideas you
can assemble from junk around the house

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL | IN SPORTS, D1

Paso Robles rolls over SLO High

ALL THE SCORES, STATS & STORIES INSIDE

Paso Robles	27	Atascadero	38
San Luis Obispo	7	Santa Ynez	35
Arroyo Grande	20	Santa Maria	25
Righetti	12	Morro Bay	17



VISIT SANLUISOBISPO.COM TO VIEW A SLIDESHOW OF PHOTOS

A place where war is taught



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Guardsmen help a 'wounded' comrade during training at Camp Roberts, where conditions in Iraq are simulated.

Camp Roberts training includes video shooting simulation, which saves on live ammunition for those preparing for Iraq

By NICK WILSON
THE TRIBUNE

About a dozen California National Guard soldiers patrolled the street, lining the road on both sides, guns cocked.

A Muslim prayer rang out over a loudspeaker. Then shooting broke out, followed by a roadside bomb.

The soldiers dropped quickly to the ground. One group moved behind trees and buildings, another lay still on the ground firing back.

"Incoming," a soldier shouted, observing the whistling sound of artillery.

It's the type of attack that occurs almost daily in Iraq, said Keith Lochner,

More inside

California National Guard's new adjutant general shares his vision. **A8**

the deputy commander of training at Camp Roberts, where soldiers demonstrated the exchange and other training simulations Friday.

The key to surviving the attacks is rigorous training, drill practice and teamwork. But Lochner acknowledged fear is a normal reaction in a real-life situation, no matter

how much a soldier has trained.

Accompanied by Paso Robles city officials touring the base, Camp Roberts officials on Friday displayed a video shooting simulation.

The city officials used M-16 rifles to

Please see **CAMP ROBERTS, A8**



Meg Williamson, Paso Robles' assistant city manager, rides in an M1A1 Abrams tank during Friday's tour at Camp Roberts.

A8

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FROM PAGE ONE

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TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOW

A National Guardsman defends his position during a training exercise Friday at Camp Roberts.

Camp Roberts

From Page A1

combat enemies ducking behind tumbleweeds in a desert landscape.

"I'm a peaceful person," Meg Williamson, Paso Robles' assistant city manager, joked after her simulated combat experience. "I didn't hit anyone. I

probably got killed."

The video simulation has helped save the military thousands of dollars in ammunition, said site coordinator Clyde Parks. The techniques that are practiced are geared to improve accuracy once they do use actual bullets on the range.

The visitors also got a glimpse of the training that soldiers get on the large M1A1

Abrams tanks now being used throughout Iraq. The tanks travel up to 40 mph and are impenetrable to machine-gun fire and most roadside bombs.

The 42,000-acre base has been busy over the past few years, both as a training site and a place where soldiers complete paperwork and medical examinations before deployment.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, 12,846 soldiers have come through Camp Roberts before or following their deployments.

There are 5,677 California National Guard soldiers on active duty.

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